MISSOURI SOUTHERN STATE UNIVERSITY — JOPLIN

THE CHART

TWISTER

Student recalls the May 4, 2003, tornado that went through Carl Junction. *Page 3A*

INSIDE LOOK

Check out the special section Poverty: Out of the Shadow. *Section B*

FRIDAY, APRIL 30, 2004 | WWW.THECHARTONLINE.COM | VOLUME 64, ISSUE NO. 24

Board departs from consortium

BY T.J. GERLACH
Managing Editor

With two members via telephone, the Missouri Southern Board of Governors held its emergency meeting, April 28.

The meeting was called to discuss the fate of Southern's involvement with the Missouri State Universities Benefit Group.

The MSUBG has handled Southern's, and other Missouri institutions, employee insurance for more than 15 years.

University President Julio León met with the administrative council and sent an e-mail to all employees on April 27 explaining the situation.

"Over the last few year's, the cost of health care has gone up dramatically," León said.

Since the Board's April 15 meeting, Central Missouri State University and Southeast Missouri State University have announced they will pull out of this consortium after Dec. 31.

León said the administration received word on April 29 that Truman State University will also pull out at the end of the year.

This leaves only Southern, Missouri Western State College and Harris-Stowe State College left in the group. HSSC only has about 50 of its employees insured by the group.

Dr. Julio León
University President

"The consortium must unfortunately dissolve," León said.

León said Southern has benefited from the consortium since it became a member. He said there has been increased pressure on the consortium and all its members to examine other methods of health care coverage.

The purpose of the emergency meeting was to ask the Board to grant the administration permission to draft a letter to the MSUBG announcing Southern's withdrawal by Friday's deadline. Board members voted to allow the motion.

Southern will remain a member of the consortium until Dec. 31.

Also, the Board was asked to grant permission for the creation of a committee to examine all possibilities for other methods of health care coverage, including hiring a consultant, receiving individual bids and looking for other health care consortiums to join. The Board also approved this motion.

Board members Jane Wyman and David Ansley will sit on the committee when it is formed.

"We're not looking for the lowest price," Wyman said. "We're looking for the best package."

The administration has decided it will have new packages to recommend to the Board by August or September. The plan is to have employees choose their package in October when they normally choose their coverage plans.

Weeklong competition ends, winner set to debut

BY PHILIP MARTIN
Executive Editor

With a gala ending to the Missouri Southern International Piano Competition, Vivian León, director of MSIPC, is eagerly awaiting the Oct. 4 trip to Carnegie Hall.

On April 24, MSIPC wrapped up its weeklong activities with the Gala Winners Concert. Eighteen-year-old Jie Chen from China took home the grand prize of $10,000 plus a debut recital in Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall, in the senior division. Chen has previously won first prize at the Piano Arts National Competition, third prize at the Sanremo Classico International Piano Competition in Italy and second prize at the Kingsville International Piano Competition, college division, in 2003.

Chen said she felt honored to win the competition.

"I was very honored," she said. "It was a total enjoyable experience."

Vivian León
Director of MSIPC

Chen said competitions help her with her piano studies.

"It's like an enzyme for my studies," she said.

The first prize winner of the junior division and recipient of $3,000 was Wenbin Jin, 16, from China. Prior to his win at MSIPC, Jin had won first prize at the Toyama Asian Piano Competition Youth Group in Beijing in 2003 and first prize at the Mi Duo Cup Piano Grade Competition, China/France in 2002.

Jin said he could not believe he was in the competition against the other competitors and that he won his division.

"It was exciting," Jin said. "Some of the other competitors were very good."

León said the winners of the competition were the ones who impressed the judges.

"Everyone that was selected to come were winners; it was very, very hard to get in to the roster of 37," she said. "They are really outstanding pianists, every one of them. The ones that actually won prizes were the cream of the crop."

She said MSIPC is set up to where everyone gets a fair chance of winning. The judges know the competitors only by number during the competition; no names or biographical information is given to them.

"In performance you can have a good day and you can have a bad day," she said. "On a good day, every one of them could be a prize winner."

León said the competition was one of the best in MSIPC history.

"It was fabulous," she said. "I think we heard the best music. I think the competitors really settled in and made a lot of friends. They had a wonderful time with their host families."

León said the competitors talked "highly of

TURN TO **MSIPC**, PAGE 12A

CONCENTRATED

Adam Fast/The Chart

Officials assess the situation of an overturned tractor trailer in front of Connie's Antiques on North Range Line Road. The driver, Jeffery Carr, attempted a left turn at too great a speed causing the cargo of apple juice to shift. The trailer and tractor rolled on its right side spilling the juice.

Loss of passport to IRS strands student in U.S.

BY NATE BILLINGS
International Editor

Miscommunication can be a small problem for students studying abroad, but there are also other unforeseen issues that can affect all traveling students.

Several international students have voiced concerns with Missouri Southern and its administration.

The concerns are over such things as travel, taxes, admissions and other items affecting international students in particular.

One student, Yunmi Sa, senior international business major, sent her student visa and passport off with her tax forms as identification. The identification papers, however, were not returned and are considered lost by the Internal Revenue Service.

"My name is on the list for missing documents," Sa said.

She, with help from Stephanie Goad, international student adviser, contacted the IRS. Sa said she has not heard about her documents.

She also said she had a difficult time receiving a Social Security number and individual tax identification number for her forms and a possible job.

Sa said she must go to Chicago in order to get another passport or other official travel documentation, which would be easier to obtain than waiting for the IRS to find her originals. However, Sa had no way to travel to Chicago.

"I decided to explain my situation to the president (Dr. Julio León)," Sa said.

She and two other students went to see León to give him their concerns.

"A lot of students have had a similar problem here on campus," Sa said.

Andy Tevis/The Chart

Yunmi Sa, senior international major from South Korea, will be forced to stay in the United States until she can reacquire a passport and visa.

León said he would help provide funding for Sa's trip to Chicago.

"She wants to go home, and it appears that she will need a new passport," León said. "It's an unfortunate situation."

Also, a faculty member will accompany Sa on her trip.

TURN TO **VISA**, PAGE 10A

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WEEKEND OUTLOOK

SATURDAY

Mostly Cloudy

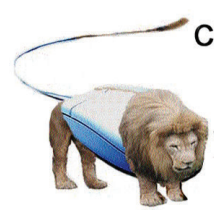
High: 58
Low: 41

SUNDAY

Partly Cloudy

High: 68
Low: 46

ONLINE



Click on the online edition of *The Chart* at www.thechartonline.com

Question of the week:
What are you doing for summer break?

Chart announces fall semester editors

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Chart announced its fall semester editors.

T.J. Gerlach will take over the helm as editor-in-chief. Nate Billings will be the No. 2 person on staff as executive editor and David Haut has been named *The Chart's* managing editor.

Other editor positions include: Adam Fast, who's been promoted to director of photography; Melissa Dunson, diversions editor; Pam Martin, advertising manager; and Chris Heinrich will be the new international editor. Monique Jamerson will move up to public forum editor, and Andy Tevis will serve as design editor.

Jerry Manter, former editor-in-chief; Philip Martin, former executive editor and Jacob West, former advertising manager are graduating.

Manter is taking a reporter position in Idaho, Martin is pursuing a master's degree in seminary and West will be working on an internship at an advertising firm in Kansas City.

Jessica MacIntosh, current online editor, will spend the fall semester studying in Orléans, France. She will return to the staff in spring 2005 but will periodically report from France in the fall. Billings will serve as online editor in her absence.

CORRECTIONS: A story in the April 16 issue on Page 1 mistakenly clarified a quote saying the state legislature withheld funds. Gov. Bob Holden should have been in the clarification instead.

In the April 23 on Page 2, the band Kufara was mistakenly identified as Kafara in the Campus Calendar.

Readers wanting to report any corrections to The Chart *can call 625-9311 or send an e-mail to chart@mssu.edu.*

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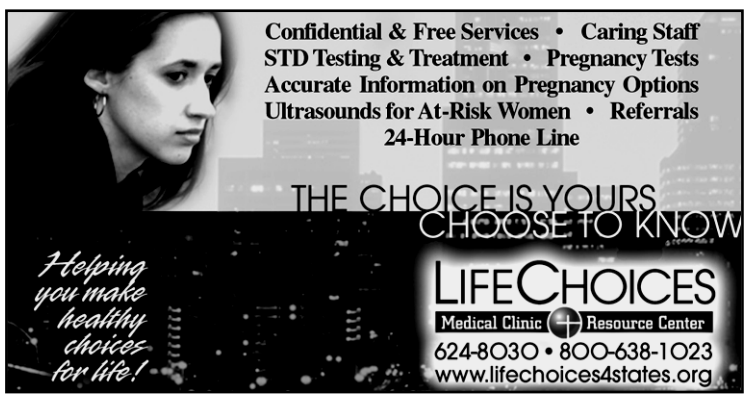
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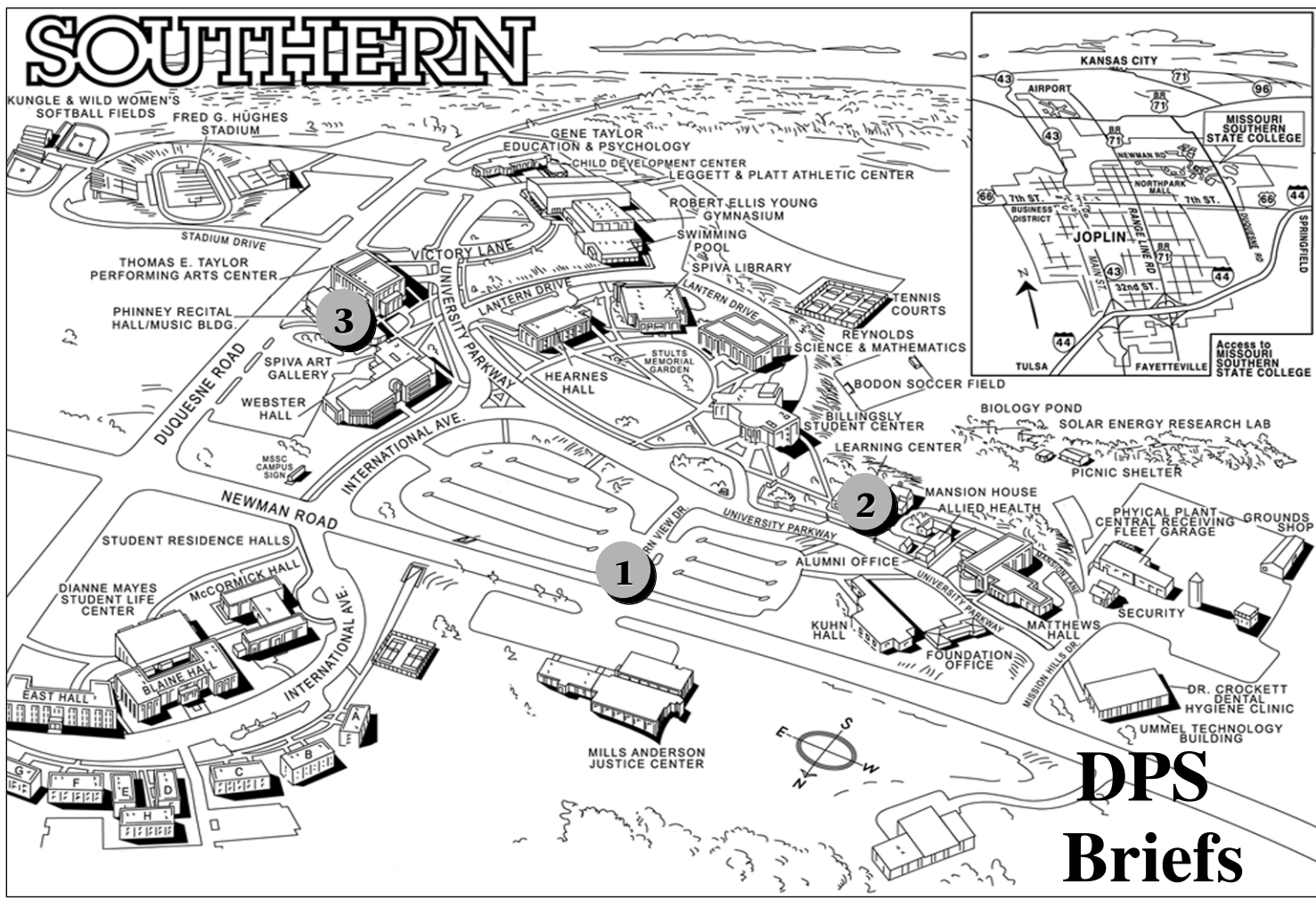

DPS Briefs

Fog machine triggers fire alarm, twice

1 Vehicle Accident

4/20/2004

9:45 a.m.

DPS was notified to a collision at the intersection of Southern View Drive and Newman Road. A Ford Explorer was making a right turn onto Southern View Drive when the driver lost control of the vehicle during braking and skid into the stopped Ford Escort. The right front of the Explorer hit the left front of the Escort.

2 Suspicious Activities

4/22/2004

2:59 p.m.

DPS received a call for assistance at the Learning Center. Upon arrival DPS was met at the door by a faculty member of the Learning Center who stated a student was possibly trying to steal a scanner. The student was unplugging the scanner from the computer it was hooked up to. When DPS asked him what he was doing, the student said he was "doing a school project."

DPS then asked what he was doing with his backpack and the computer. He became agitated and said he was going to fix the scanner. DPS told him not to mess with the computers and if he needed assistance to ask the staff. The student said everything was "cool" and started plugging the scanner back in.

3 Fire Alarm

4/26/2004

1:50 a.m.

DPS was called to the Black Box Theatre by students who were working on a project. The students informed DPS the fire alarm had gone off due to some stage fog on the set and there was no fire in the building. One of the students had reset the alarm, DPS went to the building to confirm the information. Everything was as stated. The students had propped open doors for ventilation.

They then mentioned one of the fire exits would not open from the inside. The students left after securing all the doors. Later DPS noticed the alarm had gone off again. DPS returned to the building and reset the alarm after determining a photo cell had set it off.

Security briefs are compiled from Missouri Southern Department of Public Safety reports.

Campus Calendar

Campus welcomes Red Cross, free gift with blood donation

The American Red Cross will be on campus from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. May 3 in front of Billingsly Student Center.

A recognition gift will be given to all donors.

Senior honor students present theses to fulfill requirement

On Friday two honors students will be presenting their senior honor thesis. At 2 p.m. in Webster Hall, Room 112, Philip Cross, senior mass communication, will be presenting his research project, "Detecting Deception."

The project will examine how persons detect interpersonal deception. Research will be presented from leaders in the field of nonverbal communication as well as original experimental and survey data.

At 3 p.m. in Matthews Hall, Room 109 Jamie Davis, senior Spanish/international business major, will present her thesis, "Methods of Acquiring a Second Language for Business Purposes."

The project is about how a need for a second language is becoming increasingly important in the area. Those involved in business-related jobs most often face the need as the non-English speaking population grows and seeks jobs.

The question becomes, "What is the best way we acquire a second language for business purposes?" Many language acquiring methods will be explored as well as the need for specific business vocabulary courses in Spanish. For the purpose of this research Spanish will be used as the language in question because of the growing population in the area.

Music department set dates for upcoming concert, events

The department of music has set dates for several upcoming concerts and events. At 3 p.m. Sunday at the First Community Church the Choral Society will be performing.

At 7:30 p.m. Monday in Webster auditorium, Jeremy Kushner, director of percussion studies, will be presenting a faculty percussion recital. At 7:30 p.m. Tuesday in Taylor Auditorium the Missouri Southern Choir will be holding its Spring Choir Concert. At 7:30 p.m. Thursday in Phinney Recital Hall the Choral Society will be performing. At 1:30 p.m. May 8 in Webster auditorium the Suzuki Violin Academy will be holding a concert.

CAB ends semester with annual spring picnic, Finals Madness

The Campus Activities Board is sponsoring an all-campus picnic from 10:45 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Friday on the oval. The picnic is free to students with ID. There will be free picture keychains, candles and airbrush tattoos, along with the free food.

On Wednesday, CAB will be hosting Finals Madness from 8 p.m.-1 a.m. at the residence halls tennis courts. The event is free to all students.

There will be free T-shirts, music, food, games and prizes. Some events at Finals Madness will include a Trampoline Thing, Crazy Climb, Human Foosball, Giant Twister and a Velcro Wall.

Then on Thursday, the Board will be hosting a *Friends* final episode party at 7 p.m. in the University Java coffee shop on the first floor of Spiva Library. Free coffee and cookies will be provided.

Graduating high school students receive free gifts at barbecue

The Baptist Student Union is hosting a free barbecue for graduating seniors in the area. The lunch will be from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. May 8 at the BSU.

The lunch is open to high school juniors, seniors, current college students and youth ministers. The graduating high school seniors will be receiving a free gift. For information contact Phil Gloyer, BSU director, at 624-0925 or via e-mail at mssubsu@yahoo.com.

Commencement ends semester with pomp, circumstance

Commencement exercises will be held May 15. There will be two ceremonies, one at 9 a.m. for the schools of business and education and one at noon for the schools of art and sciences and technology.

The faculty in the schools of business and education are asked to report to Young Gymnasium by 9:00 a.m. and be robed and ready to process by 9:15 a.m. The faculty attending the schools of art and sciences and technology are asked to report to Young Gymnasium by 11:30 a.m. and be robed and ready to process by 11:45 a.m.

Faculty may attend both exercises but are expected to attend one if they were not present at the December 2003 commencement ceremony. Faculty members unable to attend commencement must send a memo to the vice president for academic affairs requesting to be excused.

Following each ceremony, those renting academic regalia are asked to return it in its original plastic wrapper if possible to the concession booth in the lobby.

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Survey sparks next phase in rec center

BY T.J. GERLACH
Managing Editor

With the survey complete, the next phase in building the proposed campus recreation center is underway.

Darren Fullerton, director of campus recreation and wellness, said 563 students filled out the online survey a few weeks ago.

Fullerton said the goal was to have 400 students take the survey.

Fullerton said about 65 percent of respondents were female.

"That was kind of surprising," he said.

Fullerton said the complete results came in late in April, and he has e-mailed them to the administration.

"We haven't met with the administration yet," Fullerton said.

He said the architects will be back on campus sometime in May to review the sites recommended by the survey.

The most popular site, according to the survey, was the northeast corner of the intersection of Newman and Duquesne Roads.

The second site was a tie between a location near the Student Life Center and behind another location between Spiva Library and Billingsly Student Center.

Fullerton said some of the sites might not be feasible because of problems with utilities, possible sinkholes and some other details.

The survey had three options for the facility: an upscale version, a scaled-down version or no new facility at all. Fullerton said 43 percent of the respondents approved the first option, 37 percent approved the second and 20 percent approved the third.

Fullerton said more students were in favor of the project than when Student Senate ran a survey in the past.

"[The results] were fairly closely matched," he said.

He believes the higher student support is the result of better publicity and coverage of the project in *The Chart* and informing the students better. When the facility is built, the University's current health center will be moved into the new building. It was not included as part of the survey

TURN TO **REC CENTER**, PAGE 10A

A TWISTER To REMEMBER

Student reflects on tornado nightmare

BY JERRY MANTER
Editor-in-Chief

Memories for Terra Higgins are still crystal clear about the day she and her family was almost swept away by a tornado.

It was almost a year ago, but she still recalls the dreadful day. She remembers how close everything was.

"It started getting really windy," Higgins said.

On May 4, 2003, Higgins, junior psychology major, was attending a Carl Junction softball meeting and remembers how beautiful the day was. It was sunny outside, and she said it didn't make too much sense that the emergency response sirens started to go off. Having lived in Carl Junction for nearly all her life, she said hearing the warning sirens wasn't anything unusual.

"You don't think anything of it," Higgins said.

In what seemed to be a matter of moments, the clouds above Carl Junction blackened into a deadly blanket.

"I just knew I wanted to be home," Higgins said.

When she got home, her father instructed everyone in the family to go to the family bathroom for shelter. In the bathroom was Terra, her younger brother Andrew, her mother Lynne, a puppy and the family cat. Terra's father, Terry, was still outside the home.

"You could hear the air pressure changing," she said. "It started getting louder."

In the waking moments, Higgins said she didn't think the weather conditions were too serious. Besides, if her father was still outside, then it couldn't be too bad.

"Then my dad came rushing in," she said. "The lights went out before he was able to shut the door."

The family, which was huddled close together, sat in the bathroom for nearly 20 minutes waiting out the tornado.

"I was crying and freaking out," she said. "My mother was trying to calm me down."

The only injuries that afternoon was to Andrew. The cat was so frightened that it scratched him all over his body as he tried to hold it down. The family puppy slept through the entire ordeal.

When it was over the Higgins' family realized their fate. Their home for the most part, was not affected by the storm. A few yards

TURN TO **TWISTER**, PAGE 10A

(Above) A house and (middle right) a mini-van were damaged during a tornado on May 4, 2003. (Right) An individual surveys tornado damage done to a house

Brandi Boulware/The Chart

University bids farewell to graduates

BY JESSICA MACINTOSH
Online Editor

Mortar boards and tassels will fly May 15.

A combined 629 students will walk across the stage at Leggett & Platt Athletic Center to receive their degrees in May and July.

"We have two graduations," said Dr. Betsy Griffin, interim vice president for academic affairs.

Griffin said there will be one ceremony for the arts and sciences and technology students, and then another ceremony for the business and education students. The ceremonies will be held at 9:30 a.m. and noon and will be open to the public.

"We have a smaller number of graduates at that time," Griffin said. "Everything else is really the same."

For the ceremony, a speaker will be selected to speak at graduation by the University President's office.

This year, the speaker will be Russell Smith, a former member of the Board of Regents who is now with May's Drugstores.

Griffin said a majority of the work is done in public information to set up the programs. A tent will be set up for the reception after the ceremony.

Dr. Betsy Griffin
Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs

Graduation practice will be held a week before the ceremony.

"[The practice will be held] to let students know what to expect when they get there, and make sure if they have any questions, they can get answers," Griffin said.

Before students can walk, they must apply for graduation the semester before they are to graduate. Students will receive a letter telling them whether they will be graduating.

"The graduation application deadline is set so that people will know before they pre-enroll for their final semester if there are things they still need to take that they might not have been aware of," Griffin said. "The registrar will be very busy in checking and making sure all the requirements are met."

Griffin said the end of the semester is exciting.

"It's probably a little bit sad for some people," she said. "[Instructors] don't like to see their favorite students leave, and some students get concerns about leaving and going onto something new."

Dr. Phillip Wise, head of the music department, said the semester went "wonderful." Senior music majors had to perform a recital.

"[They] were outstanding," Wise said. "I was very pleased."

He said the department is going to miss their (seniors') talents.

"They close one door and open another," Wise said. "It's sad, but exciting."

In the kinesiology department, 20 seniors will be graduating.

"It's been a positive semester," said Dr. Pat Lipira, head of the department of kinesiology. "It's been low maintenance and not a lot of issues."

Lipira said it is hard to see the seniors leave.

"You know you're going to miss them," she said. "[You're] real proud of them."

Concerned experts 'chat' about local town's lead problems

BY MELISSA DUNSON
Diversions Editor

Chat piles, not children, populate the abandoned playgrounds of Picher, Okla.

In a lecture on April 26 at the University Java coffee shop, three different experts on the situation focused on three different aspects of the ongoing lead contamination problem in Picher.

The area in Oklahoma was aggressively mined from 1819 to 1970. The resulting 40 acres or 165 million tons of chat are leaching dangerous amounts of lead into the surrounding soil and air.

It would require 15 years of Environmental Protection Agency officials working three shifts per day, seven days per week to remove one chat pile.

"Whatever we do with the chat, it will take a long, long time," said John Sparkman, spokesperson for the Tar Creek Basin Steering Committee.

Mike Fletcher, director of the environmental health program at Missouri Southern, spoke on the geology of Picher and the history of the mining town.

Fletcher suggested a possible solution was to "tie up" the chat and the lead in asphalt or cement and use it as a sub-base or sub-grade for major highways. This would keep the chat from being exposed to the elements and prevent the toxic minerals from seeping out.

"It appears it would be better to tie it up rather than leave it," Fletcher said. "I think there needs to be a lot more study done on it."

Paul Barton, Seneca-Cayuga tribal member, works in the tribe's environmental department and offered the Native American tribes' viewpoint on the issue. All eight of the local Native American tribes are working together to research solutions to the toxic minerals all around them.

Barton said the lead seeps into the water supply and is taken up into the plant materials the tribe members use to make ethnic crafts.

"When you're working with these crafts, you're putting it in your mouth a lot," Barton said.

The EPA spent years replacing the soil in Picher lawns at the cost of $71,000 per lawn, only to have the yards recontaminated every time the wind blows toxic dust off of the chat piles.

"It's a successful failure," Sparkman said. "It's just not fixable, unless you want to pour billions of dollars into it."

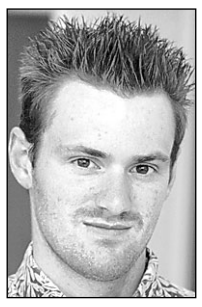
TURN TO **CHAT**, PAGE 10A

Editor's Column

Let's act like we're out of high school

Goodbye.

I have always hated having to say that. Now it is the last issue of the semester and the last issue for me. I will graduate in a couple of weeks and start a new life outside Missouri Southern. So I have to bid a fond farewell to my alma mater. I have enjoyed my time here and the people I have met. Sure, there have been times when it felt like all of this was too much for me. And there were times where if I had one more person trying to tell me how to live my life I would snap. But, I persevered through it all. Now I am on the threshold of graduation, and I have to bid *auf wiedersehn* to this lifestyle and hello to my next one.



Philip Martin
Executive Editor

Of course, I am going on to get my master's degree, but I will be leaving behind a secular campus and head full steam into a religious campus. That is because I want to be a missionary, and if it was not for my time at Southern, I would not have realized this plan for my life. I would have stayed with journalism until I burned out, which would have been quickly after graduation, I feel.

This column is not meant to be a preaching platform — I have already done that. I would like to take this opportunity to give some advice that was not given to me when I started here. I feel like this would help other students who were not given any advice and were thrown into this place without any help at all.

First off, this is not high school. Do not act like it is high school; we are students at a respectable four-year university. Any childish notion of wanting to be the most popular student on campus means nothing. There are far too many students on campus for one person to be known by all of them. I guarantee every single student does not know the Student Senate president.

Second, find something to believe in, and hold on to it. These beliefs are what will strengthen you and give you comfort during the hard times of college life. It does not matter what your belief is in, as long as you believe in something, you can get through anything college life throws at you.

No matter what you think, you do have to choose a belief. You cannot go through life not believing in anything; even atheists believe in something. You have to decide, if you don't remember what Rush said, "If you choose not to decide, you still have made a choice. You can choose from phantom fears and kindness that can kill. I will choose a path that is clear. I will choose free will."

One final piece of advice, no matter what you do, do not pull the mask off the Lone Ranger, don't spit into the wind, and, no matter how tempted you are, do not tug on Superman's cape.

Philip Martin is the Executive Editor for The Chart. *His opinions are his own and don't necessarily reflect those of* The Chart *staff.*

MISSOURI SOUTHERN STATE UNIVERSITY — JOPLIN

THE CHART

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MELISSA DUNSON **Diversions Editor**
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The Chart, the newspaper of Missouri Southern State University-Joplin, is published weekly, except during holidays and examination periods, from August through May by students in communications as a laboratory experience. Views expressed do not represent the opinions of the administration, faculty or the student body.

Nate Billings is the International Editor for The Chart.
The opinions reflected in his cartoon don't necessarily reflect those of The Chart *staff*

Letters to the Editor Policy

Letters to the editor must be signed originals and include the writer's address and phone number for verification, as well as class rank and major. Letters should not exceed 300 words. *The Chart* reserves the right to edit or refuse letters on the basis of length, clarity, accuracy and liability. Letters will be chosen for publication by *The Chart* editors according to space considerations.

Problem affects everyone

Chart Opinion

Missouri Southern is sitting in the middle of one of the worst ecological disaster areas in the continental United States. It seems like no one really notices the danger that we, as residents, are facing. The mine waste and the problems stemming from the waste that has developed throughout the years is not affecting just Picher, Okla. Many people forget that the money put into the cleaning up of the yards of every Picher resident has also been put forth in other communities in the area.

Not long ago Joplin had several yards dug up and new soil put down. Not that far away in Kansas there was an effort made to replace the soil in highly affected areas. Within the past 10 years the Environmental Protection Agency has been working to make this area a safer, healthier place, but to no avail.

Contractors are still putting topsoil down on top of old mining areas, after cleaning the area, and building houses on top of the new soil, that is still infected with lead. The EPA will have to come in and replace the soil in five years.

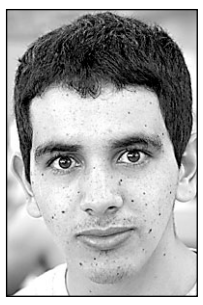
So, what is the answer to all of this? There really isn't one. The government could remove the chat piles and use it for other things, but this would be polluting an even bigger area. The buyout plan for Picher, along with the creation of a wet lands is quite possibly the best solution put forth.

As for the rest of the area, we need to allow the EPA to do its work and clean up a site before any major construction begins. This will save a lot of time and money.

Campus Voice

BY ANDY TEVIS

How do you feel about the area's mine waste?

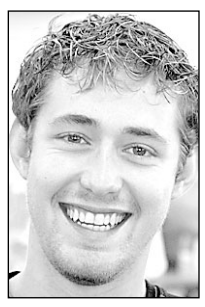


"I think there should be a genuine concern, especially in the areas that are closest to the mines."

Sergio Carrillo
Sophomore
Pre-Engineering Major

"I'd be pissed off if there was lead in my water."

David Lipscomb
Junior
Health Promotion Major



"They should relocate the residents of Picher and reimburse them somehow."

Joe Mulia
Sophomore
International Studies/French Major

"In general I don't think it's a good idea. The less waste the better, but I don't really know what to do about it."

Katie Lee
Sophomore
Secondary Education Major

"I think that the people should be educated about conservationalism and environmentalism. This place needs to be looked at through environmentalists' eyes..."

Heather Asbell
Junior
Middle School Education Major

In Perspective

Organizations improve student life

One of the most common phrases I hear from students is "there's nothing to do in Joplin." True, while Joplin is not a sprawling metropolis, there are plenty of things to do at Missouri Southern, but it is up to you to get involved. You work hard so you can attend Southern, so why let all the "perks" pass you by? Try going to a play or a football game. Get involved with intramural volleyball or basketball. Go to one of the many cultural events offered throughout the semester. Go to a Campus Activities Board movie night or Finals Madness. Better yet, don't just go to an event; get involved in the planning of these events such as joining CAB or one of the other 80 student organizations.

Julie Blackford
Director of Student Activities

Obviously, an important component of college is academics. However, there are other components that are just as important, such as leading an active and satisfying social life, discovering your leadership potential and growing as an individual. While graduating summa cum laude, magna cum laude or cum laude is great (plus you get that small, shiny, rectangle sticker on your diploma), it is not what is going to land you a job once you get out into "the real world." Hundreds of students graduate with these honors, and while it shows that you are committed to hitting the books, it isn't going to set you apart from the other 25 applicants applying for the job you want. So, what is going to set you apart from the other applicants? Leadership, organizational skills and people skills.

Employers, especially in the service sector, want applicants who are friendly, outgoing, self-motivated and have the ability to multitask. How are you going to get your foot in the door to even get an interview? Your resume. This is where being involved in things other than academics can get your places. Let's say all 25 applicants have a comparable degree as you. What is going to set you apart

TURN TO **STUDENTS**, PAGE 10A

Letter

CAB should leave *Crossroads* alone, focus on activities

The Campus Activities Board's suggestion of making *Crossroads* into a yearbook is a total waste of time and money.

I am a non-traditional student, attending college in an effort to gain a new career. I do not think writing for a yearbook is going to be anywhere near as beneficial for obtaining a career as writing for a newspaper and magazine is going to be. Actually, writing a yearbook has no value.

I am paying to attend college so I will be able to start a career as a freelance writer and write for some of the larger outdoor companies. A yearbook will not do this. If the organizations on this campus are interested in where the money goes and what it is used for, let me put in my two cents.

I, along with many other non-traditional students, pay an activity fee each semester, including summer, of which CAB receives a good portion. This activity fee is not voluntary; it is paid by every student, yet of all the activities CAB conducts, none of them we (non-trads) have noticed are geared toward older non-traditional students.

Enough of that. My point is this: Many of the non-trads and I are here for a career degree, either a new career or advancement in the present career.

For me, that is a degree that will aid in my becoming a writer and writing a yearbook has nothing to do with it. So leave *Crossroads* as it is, and if you want a yearbook, CAB can fund it, after all I'm paying for part of that too. Thanks for your time and long live *Crossroads*.

Russ Roper
Sophomore
Mass Communication Major

Institute approves grants

BY NATE BILLINGS
International Editor

Three McCaleb Initiative for Peace grants have been approved for the summer.

Dr. Chad Stebbins, director of the Institute of International Studies, said four applications were received, but only three could be funded.

Normally, $6,500 a year is allowed for grants. An extra $7,000 was given to Missouri Southern by Margaret McCaleb this semester. Therefore, three, instead of the usual two grants could be approved.

Each recipient could receive upwards of $5,000.

"They (the proposals which received the grants) are very interesting and unique," Stebbins said.

"They are going to areas of the world where previous McCalebs have not gone."

Netza Smith
Junior
Accounting Major

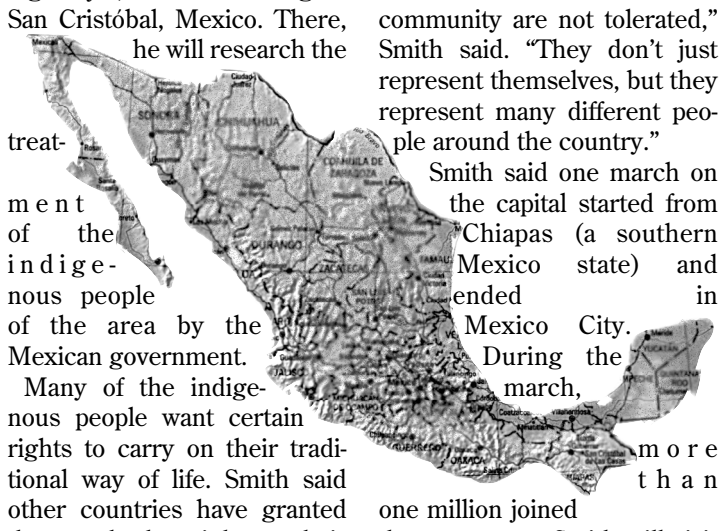
Barbra Lukunka
Senior International
Studies Major

Jessica Koch
Junior International
Studies Major

MCCALEB
INITIATIVE FOR PEACE

INDIGENOUS RIGHTS IN MEXICO

Netza Smith, junior accounting major, will be heading to San Cristóbal, Mexico. There, he will research the treatment of the indigenous people of the area by the Mexican government.



Many of the indigenous people want certain rights to carry on their traditional way of life. Smith said other countries have granted these and other rights to their indigenous people, but Mexico has not.

In his proposal, Smith will discuss what the people want and how they are to go about it.

"This (the movement for rights) is something that is known in Mexico," Smith said. "It's kind of controversial. It's not really known outside of Mexico."

The movement for the rights of the indigenous people started in the '90s and only one conflict has occurred since its beginning.

Smith is interested in the subject because of what it means for the people in the area.

"Different members of the community are not tolerated," Smith said. "They don't just represent themselves, but they represent many different people around the country."

Smith said one march on the capital started from Chiapas (a southern Mexico state) and ended in Mexico City. During the march, more than one million joined the movement. Smith will visit the area for 10 days at the end of May and beginning of June.

Dr. Jeff Martinek, assistant professor of English, is Smith's adviser for the trip.

"Netza is very knowledgeable and has a passion about this issue," Martinek said. "He believes very strongly in social justice. It will be a difficult project."

Martinek said he is not worried about Smith's project.

"We are very confident in his (Smith's) ability to handle himself," he said.

Martinek will not accompany Smith on his project.

BORDER WARS IN ETHIOPIA

Barbra Lukunka, senior international studies major, will be studying the peace efforts between Eritrea and Ethiopia. She hopes to interview top officials in the efforts. She will use her proposal to discuss the refugee situation and other people displaced by the conflict between the two countries over their border. Lukunka was in Ethiopia when the conflict started. She is looking to promote peace with her proposal.

"When you see these things (war, military actions), you don't want to see them again," Lukunka said. "You don't want to see people to go through it."

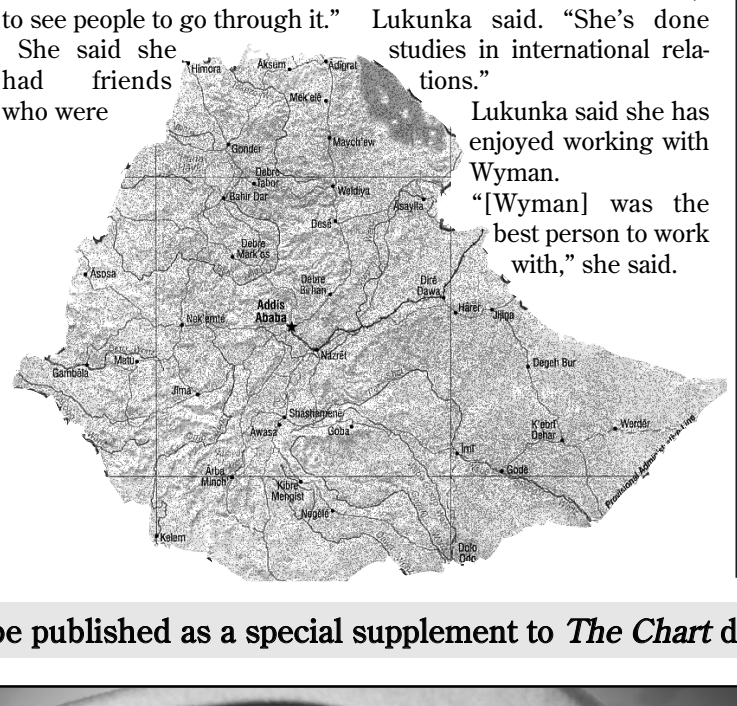
She said she had friends who were affected by the conflict. Some of her friends had to leave because of the fighting.

"Until you see people being carried away in big trucks, you can't imagine what it's like," Lukunka said.

She was not sure of the exact times she will be visiting Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and Asmara, Eritrea, but she said it will be over a one-month period.

Dr. Ann Wyman, assistant professor of political science, is Lukunka's adviser on the project. Wyman will not accompany Lukunka on the trip.

"She (Wyman) knows things about third-world studies," Lukunka said. "She's done studies in international relations."



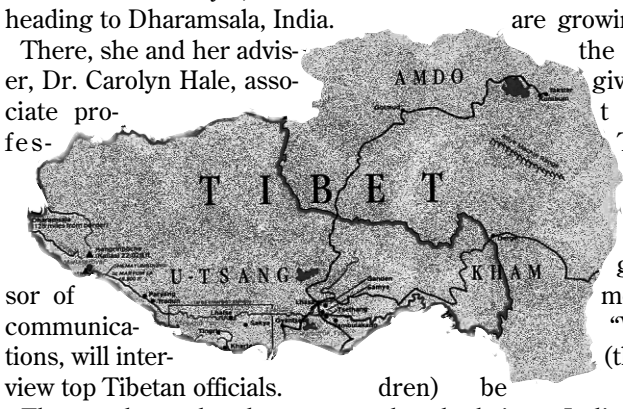
Lukunka said she has enjoyed working with Wyman.

"[Wyman] was the best person to work with," she said.

TIBETAN CHILDREN'S VILLAGES

Jessica Koch, junior international studies major, will be heading to Dharamsala, India.

There, she and her adviser, Dr. Carolyn Hale, associate professor of communications, will interview top Tibetan officials.



The two have already set up contacts through the Dalai Lama's sister, President Jetsun Pema. Pema is the president of the refugee areas.

In 1959, Tibetan officials were forced to move to India after China took over their homeland.

Koch said today there are at least two Chinese Communists living in Tibet for every native Tibetan still in the land.

Koch and Hale will be interacting with the Tibetan Children's Villages.

Koch would like to focus on the factors involved in keeping the Tibetan conflict a peaceful conflict.

"Many Tibetans have not been in their homeland," Hale said.

Hale said the research will also focus on the children who are growing up in the area given to the Tibetan officials by the Indian government.

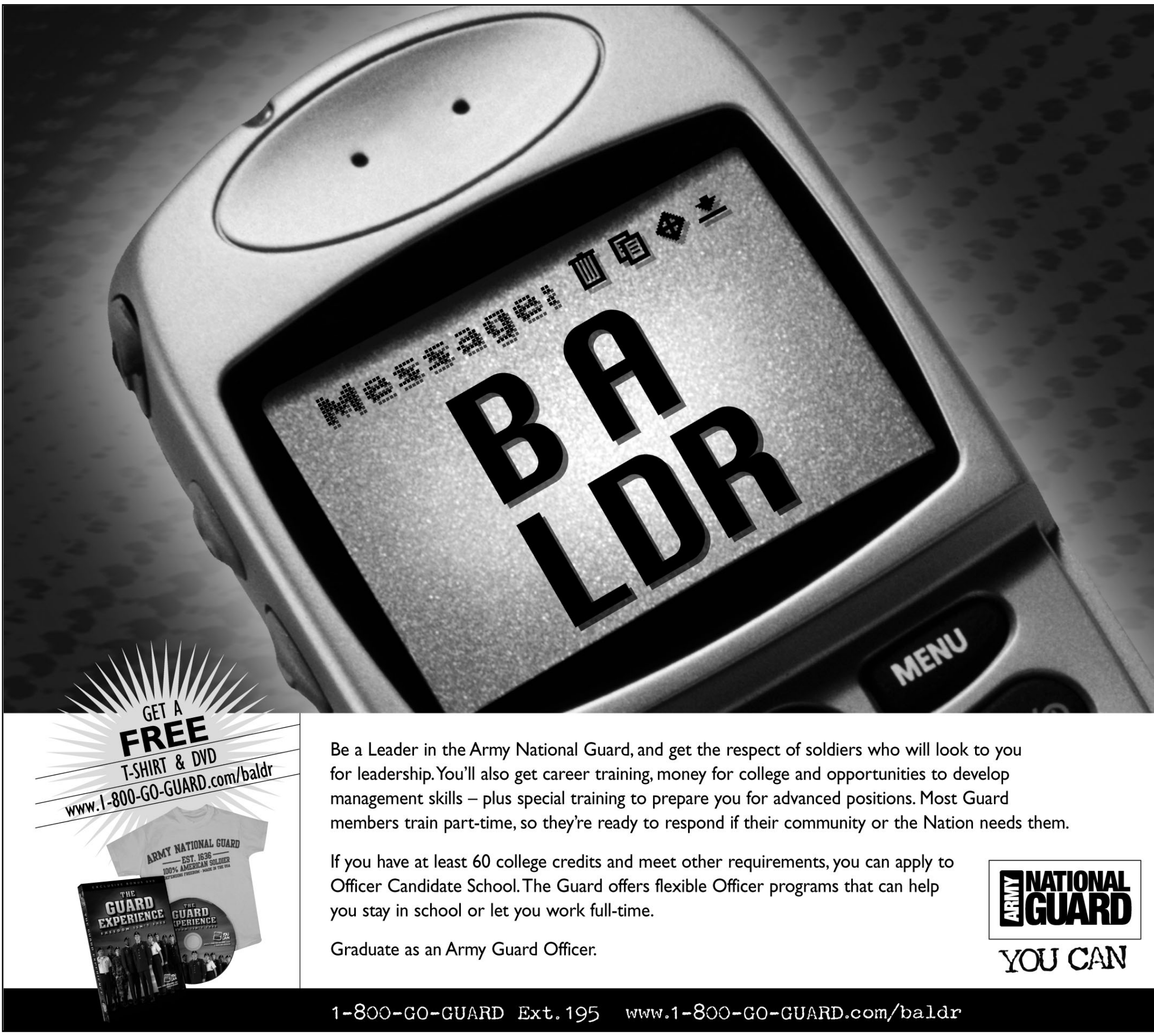
"Will they (the children) be absorbed into India or the United States or will they make their way to England," she said.

Koch and Hale have already confirmed several interviews with the general secretary Thupten Dorjee, TCV teaching faculty members, and some of the children of the TCV.

The pair plans to leave between May 16 and 20. The trip should be around a month long depending on the research and travel conditions.

They originally wanted to go to Tibet, but the U.S. government has placed travel restrictions on the area. Next, they thought to go to Nepal, but civil wars have broken out in the country. The plan was refocused to the ousted Tibetan government in Dharamsala.

Each McCaleb Peace Initiative will be published as a special supplement to *The Chart* during the 2004-2005 production year.



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Members of the local band, The Rich Kids, sometimes become so consumed with performing their original punk-emo songs they are unaware of their surroundings. Matt Long, lead guitarist and vocalist, said he found blood all over his arms and hands once while performing and didn't know how it had gotten there.

Special to The Chart

Band pursues success for richer or poorer

By Melissa Dunson
Diversions Editor

Sweat and blood flying, false humility is nowhere to be found.

"We rock our asses off," said Matt Long, 20, Carthage, lead guitarist and vocalist for local band The Rich Kids.

Passion and intensity aren't distant ideals but an ear shattering reality at The Rich Kids' concerts.

The members of the three-piece punk-emo rock band are not only talented musicians, but dedicated performers as well.

Brothers Matt and Luke Long, 21, Carthage, bassist and backup vocalist, started playing music when their father, a folk songwriter, "shoved" a guitar in their faces.

Cody Ward, 20, Carthage, drummer, discovered his love for music during his tumultuous high school years. After struggling academically, Ward threatened to drop out of school if he was dropped from band.

"It (music class) was the only thing I looked forward to at school," Ward said.

The words the members use to describe their passion for music are the same ones a person might use when talking about love.

"It's the only thing I want to do ever," Matt said. "People ask me why I'm not in college, but something would have to happen to me for me to go. I would have to lose my hand or something. If not playing music is growing up, I don't ever want to grow up."

The members' passion isn't always the stereotypical rock-star lifestyle portrayed in popular movies. The members work long hours five and six days every week at fast food restaurants to support their musical habit.

"I work at Sonic six days a week so I can: A, make my car payment; and B, buy band equipment," Matt said.

The majority of the time not spent at work is dedicated to practicing and performing. Because of this, the members admit they sometimes struggle to have a social life.

"I don't have any time," Matt said. "There's not enough days in the week. All of a sudden it's Friday, and I realize I haven't done anything except practice or perform."

> *"It's the only thing I want to do ever... If not playing music is growing up, I don't ever want to grow up."*
>
> **Matt Long**
> *Lead Guitarist and Vocalist for The Rich Kids*

Despite the pressures and sacrifices, the members are convinced they are fulfilling their destinies.

"I could be a business man or an engineer," Matt said. "But I'd never feel like I was doing what I was meant to do, and that's cheating yourself."

Unlike many small bands, The Rich Kids aren't afraid to dream big, and the members admit they want a successful career in the music business.

"Since this is the only thing I want to do with my life, I might as well be successful at it," Matt said.

The members said they would like to have their songs played on the radio and tour Europe, but were careful to draw a distinction between money and success.

"If you're trying to base your success on money, there are a lot of millionaires out there like the Backstreet Boys. The Backstreet Boys are millionaires and are considered to be successful, but I don't want to be the Backstreet Boys," Matt said.

The band and its music are so precious to the members they are ready to stand up for its honor like a friend's little sister when threatened.

"If you don't like it (our music) that's cool," Matt said. "But don't question my motives, and don't talk sh*t about my band."

Some people have labeled The Rich Kids' drive for success as "selling out," but the members said they are simply doing the one thing they want to do.

"If you want to call it selling out, call it that," Matt said. "But what's more selling out? Doing what you want to do, wearing the clothes you want to wear and playing the music you want to play; or wearing their uniform and saying, 'Welcome to Sonic, may I take your order?'"

While not necessarily expecting to become rock and roll legends, the band aspires to inspire its listeners and future generations.

"I aspire to be the best that I can be," Matt said. "I would like nothing better than in 20 years to have some guy with a guitar say I was his inspiration."

The journey of the late nights and small crowds is rewarded occasionally in little ways.

"The best thing was when we were selling this really sh*tty EP," Matt said. "We did a show, and there were these girls standing in the front singing along with the songs, and I thought, 'that's cool.'"

The Rich Kids may look the typical rock band part, with torn jeans and old T-shirts, but the members said that couldn't be further from the truth.

"Maybe people think we're trying to look like rock stars," Matt said. "We just have cheap old clothes that we bought like six years ago, and we don't have the money to buy new ones," Luke said.

The band members compare their sound to the Foo Fighters and said although they come from very different musical backgrounds, the sound "meshes" well.

The songwriting is honest and from the heart. Matt said he isn't good at writing abstractly or thematically, but he writes from his life experiences.

"I don't think there are any songs we play that we don't feel," Matt said.

Whatever the future may hold, success or the dreaded "growing up," the band members said they will never regret the experience they have been privileged to share.

Special to The Chart

Members of the band The Rich Kids are anything but rich. They each work at area fast food restaurants five and six days per week to pay their bills and afford musical equipment. Financial stability is important to the members, but they are committed to not "cheating" themselves out of their musical dream.

"I'm probably further along than I thought I would be," Matt said. "But if I had to stop I'd never regret it. Playing music just to play music is cool, but if you have ambition and aspiration, go for it."

The Rich Kids have one album available, *Out Breaking Windows*, recorded July 2003 and plan to record a new album in Nashville sometime in May. A tour is scheduled for later this summer.

The band's next performance is 11 a.m.-2 p.m. during the Finals Madness Picnic Friday at the oval.

Local band, The Rich Kids, consists of two brothers and a friend from Carthage pursuing success and their musical passion. For information, read the story.

Funny Thing About Life...

DAVID HAUT
Public Forum Editor

Today's topic: Beer and breast enlargement.

I've never really understood the fascination with drinking. It's expensive, it stinks and it inhibits the pee function. Recently I conducted an unofficial poll, asking students of all ages why they like to drink. Of the answers I got back, 99.9 percent were, "it's cool."

Yeah, so was Don Johnson's haircut.

Mass beer consumption rates right up there with flushing toilets and rolling down car windows. It's not a sport, but most men can make one out of it.

Here are some actual questions I asked people about drinking (note, some may have been drinking at the time):

Q: Why do you drink so much beer?

A: Monday.

Q: Do you think alcohol impairs your judgment?

A: I wear Nikes.

Q: What is your favorite thing to do when drinking?

A: Drink.

I am not an alcohol activist; I don't find anything wrong with drinking, unless you drive a car, semi, forklift, combine or backhoe.

On to the second question: this one's for the ladies. Why do you feel the need to get bigger breasts? Seriously, if your boobs are a problem, do you really want to make the problem bigger?

It's clear that women want guys to look at them when they wear low-rise jeans and a shirt that covers approximately 2 percent of their body, rounding up. You know, if you put on clown pants and a sombrero and ran up and down Range Line screaming, people would look at you too.

Women need to know that there is nothing wrong with their bodies. If all a guy wants is fake boobs, have him get them. I know one guy who would never leave the house if he had a pair.

Do these things go hand in hand? Does breast enlargement lead to drinking? Or worse, does drinking lead to breast enlargement?

David Haut, Public Forum Editor, writes a weekly humor column for The Chart. *His opinions are his own and don't necessarily reflect those of* The Chart *staff.*

Board finishes semester with Finals Madness

BY DAVID HAUT
Public Forum Editor

Hands were raised and Taps played as the final spring 2004 meeting of Missouri Southern's Campus Activities Board ended.

Julie Blackford, director of student activities, took a moment to reflect on the year and the progress CAB has made.

"We've had a great year," Blackford said. "Not only in planning for events, but student participation as well. All of [the CAB members'] hard work needs to be recognized."

During the 2003-2004 year, CAB hosted many events as well as sponsoring Chief Richard Picciotto and Dr. Hunter "Patch" Adams. Both lectures broke previous attendance records. This year's end-of-the-year events include Finals Madness, a game night on Reading Day. Some of the events are a Velcro wall, human foosball, water balloons and limbo. Free T-shirts and refreshments will also be available.

The *Friends* finale night will also be taking place on Thursday in the University Java coffee shop on the first floor of the Spiva Library. Students will receive a coupon good for two drinks, a muffin and a cookie. The coffee shop will be transformed from the University Java to the Central Perk. Students are invited to take a break from studying and watch the finale in a fun setting. Activities will begin when the show starts.

"We'll also have a drawing for a box-set [of *Friends*]," said Daniel Horner, junior health promotion and wellness major.

Trivia and games are also a possibility as the event is still in the planning stage.

"This week's events, the photo scavenger hunt, movie night and skate night, were a strong finish," Blackford said.

Blackford's hopes for next year are to allocate funds to smaller, more frequent projects. She also hopes to bring more people into the meetings, since it's the students money CAB is spending.

"We have lots of new ideas," Blackford said.

Meetings will resume at 2 p.m. on the first Wednesday of next semester in the student activities office on the third floor of Billingsly Student Center.

Adam Fast/The Chart

Jason Engström, senior theatre major, is a prolific actor who has starred in such plays as *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* and *The Diary of Anne Frank*. After graduating from Southern in May, Engström plans to attend graduate school at the University of Arkansas and work toward a master's degree in fine arts. Engström has been attending Southern off and on since 1995.

Prominent theatre student bids farewell to University

BY DAVID HAUT
Public Forum Editor

Lights, sounds, costumes and makeup are nothing new for Jason Engström.

The senior theatre major from Seattle has been acting from a young age.

After some time on stage in high school, Engström came to Missouri Southern by way of his mother, a Kansas City resident.

"I wanted to go to college far away," Engström said. "I knew I could get in-state [tuition] in Missouri."

Engström chose Southern for its low cost and its small class size, while not wanting to compete with graduate students while majoring in theatre.

He came to Southern in the fall of 1995, focusing more time on the theater than his classes, resulting in inadequate grades. Engström failed out after two years.

He returned to Seattle, doing a few acting jobs, learning improv and working security.

Wanting to pursue acting further, Engström decided to go to New York City. Taking acting classes and working as an administrative assistant, he never found the stage.

"That was a pretty lonely job because I was a 'floater,'" Engström said. "That is an assistant who fills in for assistants who are gone for the day in a building with 30 something stories. It's like I never got to know anybody."

After only a few months of loneliness, Engström was ready to head back to school in 2000.

"There were guys there who were doing the same pud jobs I was doing who were 'actors," he said.

"I didn't want to struggle. I love my art, but I also love my creature comforts."

After big cities with crowded streets and rude people, Engström was glad to return to Southern, this time a biology major, which lasted for three semesters.

Engström is known around the theatre department as anal, although his improv talent is legendary in the department.

"Ultimately my love for the theater won out," he said. "I couldn't stay away."

> *"I've moved around so much that I'm kind of used to leaving things behind and starting anew."*
>
> **Jason Engström**
> *Senior Theatre Major*

Since his return, Engström has performed in numerous plays such as One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest and The Diary of Anne Frank.

Although his time in the theatre department has been long, he has made a lot of friends over the years.

"He can come up with the funniest songs, ever," said Rachel Mastin, junior theatre major.

"He'll sit here and come up with the most random song, ever, and it will be hilarious."

"He once had this idea to take a random picture every day for 30 days," said David Pearson, sophomore theatre major.

From his monopoly strategies to the way he picks out his clothes in the morning, Engström's odd quirks and all, will be missed.

"I think he's the best male actor in the department right now," Pearson said. "You can always trust him on stage."

"He will not do anything he isn't passionate about," Mastin said.

Following his graduation from Southern, Engström plans to go to graduate school at the University of Arkansas, working toward a masters of fine arts.

Ultimately, he plans to get a Doctorate and teach at the college level.

"I've moved around so much that I'm kind of used to leaving things behind and starting anew," Engström said.

"I'm starting to get older now; I'd like to settle down for a while, but I can't. It seems like I've been here forever. I think this is a good time for me to be heading out."

Area Events

If your organization has an event you would like publicized, call Melissa Dunson at 625-9311.

30
Envy, Bobby Jones, Stroke of Genius, Godsend, Laws of Attraction and *Mean Girls* open at the Northstar 14 Theaters.

Senseraphims and St. Priscilla concert @ 7 p.m. @ URT.

Indagrass concert @ 9 p.m. @ Kitchen Pass in Neosho.

Frickin' A concert @ 3 p.m. @ *The Globe* parking lot.

The Bastard Sons of Johnny Cash @ 7 p.m. @ Grand Emporium in Kansas City.

Any Thing But Joey concert @ 7 p.m. @ Granada Theatre in Lawrence, Kan.

All Jazz Band concert @ 7:30 p.m. @ Juanita K. Hammons Hall in Springfield.

1
Glory Days "Live Music Cafe" @ 8 p.m @ Glory Days Music.

Sound and the Fury, Substance and Cellar Dorm concert @ 7 p.m. @ URT.

Concert for a Cure featuring Big Smitty and Diversity @ 1 p.m. @ Webb City Amphitheatre.

Beerfest of the Midwest @ 1-4 p.m. @ Remington's Entertainment Complex in Springfield.

Artsfest @ 10 a.m.-6 p.m. @ Historic Walnut Street in Springfield.

2
Karaoke from 9 p.m.-1 a.m. @ Murphy's Irish Pub.

Choral Society Concert @ 3 p.m. @ First Community Church.

Artsfest @ 10 a.m.-6 p.m. @ Historic Walnut Street in Springfield.

3
BSU Joy Explosion @ 7 p.m.

Faculty percussion recital @ 7:30 p.m. @ Webster auditorium.

4
Spring Choir Concert @ 7:30 p.m. @ Taylor Auditorium.

Harry Connick Jr. concert @ 7 p.m. @ Madrid Theatre Kansas City.

5
General all-ages extreme sports session @ 3 p.m. @ The Bridge.

Karaoke @ 10 p.m. @ The Green Room.

Sevendust, Cold, Apartment 26 and Atomship concert @ 7 p.m. @ Granada Theatre in Lawrence, Kan.

Spring Homes Tour @ 10 a.m.-6 p.m. @ Downtown Springfield.

6
Krazy Karaoke @ 9 p.m. @ Champ's Bar and Grill.

Campus Crusade for Christ @ 7:30 p.m. @ The Student Life Center.

Choral Society Concert @ 7:30 p.m. @ Phinney Hall.

7
Van Helsing and *New York Minute* open at the Northstar 14 Theaters.

Esoteric, In Flames and Killswitch Engage concert @ 8 p.m. @ The Beaumont Club in Kansas City.

The Great Tort Debate

House Speaker Catherine Hanaway (R-Warson Woods) and Rep. Richard Byrd (R-Kirkwood) speak out in response to Gov. Bob Holden's veto.

Karena Wells/The Chart

Gov. Holden requests unscheduled press conference

Karena Wells/The Chart

Gov. Bob Holden (D) announces his veto of the tort reform bill at his April 27 press conference.

BY KARENA WELLS
State News Editor

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. — With about a 20-minute notice, the governor's office was not as full with reporters as it was during previous press conferences.

The governor held an unplanned press conference April 27 to give his reason for vetoing House Bill 1304, the tort reform bill.

"I have made clear my objections to this bill in the past, yet the legislature has sent me a bill they knew I would not be willing to sign, rather than sending me legislation that would meaningfully address the costs of malpractice insurance for physicians," said Gov. Bob Holden (D).

He said the current bill does not address insurance reform and misuses the needs of doctors. Holden said the only people benefiting would be large corporations.

"I urge the legislature to immediately begin work on legislation that incorporates the many areas of agreement on needed protections for physicians," Holden said.

The governor said he had drafted a new bill that he would introduce by the end of the week. He declined to present copies of the bill because he needed to run it by the legislators first.

The governor said it was possible to create and vote on a new bill with only 15 days of session left.

"Where there is a will there is a way," Holden said.

The governor blamed the Republican majority for not getting the bill to him sooner and said he had hoped to get the tort reform bill done in a timely manner.

Holden did not say where he stood on the filibuster performed by Sen. Ken Jacob (D-Columbia) in the Senate April 22.

"The governor does his job," Jacob said. "And I do mine. I was trying to stop a bill."

House Speaker Catherine Hanaway (R-Warson Woods) and Rep. Richard Byrd (R-Kirkwood) held a press conference in the House speaker's office following the governor's address.

"It is a shame the governor could not put his personal agenda aside and support the many doctors in this state," Hanaway said. "We are all very disappointed."

Neither Hanaway nor Byrd had seen the governor's tort reform bill or were familiar with the change in provisions he spoke of. If they received a bill, they said they would take meaningful steps to get it done before the end of session. They said they would take meaningful steps to override the governor's veto on the current bill.

Byrd said there were two serious problems facing doctors in the state.

The first problem is the large number of physicians leaving to practice in other states. The second problem is the large number of physicians limiting the services they provide because of the high cost of malpractice insurance.

"What he has done," Byrd said. "it is hierarchy."

"It is clear he is opposed to tort reform," said Sen. Gary Nodler (R-Joplin).

> *"I have made clear my objections to this bill in the past, yet the legislature has sent me a bill they knew I would not be willing to sign."*
>
> **Bob Holden**
> *Missouri Governor*

"It is also clear he opposed to plaintiffs' rights."

"It is a shame he does not want to bring Missouri into the 21st century."

Nodler said he didn't think the governor cared about the shortage of neurosurgeons in the state or the costs to them.

"This is a good bill and it does not just protect special interest groups," Nodler said.

"It protects everybody; all the people."

He said he did not believe insurance reform was the big problem.

"Right now there are only three insurance companies left in the state," Nodler said.

"It is not a lucrative business. We used to have 30 and now because of the cost, they are moving out of the state."

Senate passes new law allowing hand fishing

BY KARENA WELLS
State News Editor

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. — With 15 days till the end of session important legislation is coming to the floor of the Missouri Senate.

"I tell you what," said Sen. Gary Nodler (R-Joplin). "I bet there are more noodlers than Nodlers in the state."

"Yes," said Sen. John Cauthorn (R-Mexico).

"And hopefully if my bill passes they will both be legal."

Senate Bill 1153 was brought before the Senate April 28 to be perfected. Sponsored by Cauthorn, the bill clarifies the statutory restrictions regarding the pursuing, taking, killing or disposition of wildlife and shall not preclude a person from hand fishing for catfish or carp during the months of June or July.

Currently the state of Missouri does not allow individuals to fish with their hands (noodle). This bill would change that.

Sen. Joan Bray (D-St.Louis) had a few questions for Cauthorn.

"I noticed how short your bill was but that it has gotten a lot of support," Bray said. "You have quite a lobbyist effort put together with fliers, compact discs and three color binders. I wonder, senator, why you did not just use all that money and buy fishing poles."

"It defeats the purpose, senator," Cauthorn said.

Sen. Dan Clemens (R-Marshfield) said he recalled in his youth being a noodler. He said he had questions about the bill, but Cauthorn had clarified them.

"I have seen the light senator," Clemens said.

"I'm proud of you," Cauthorn said.

"Yeah, I think it's bouncing off your bald head," Clemens said to Cauthorn.

Sen. Mary Groves Bland (D-Kansas City) questioned the sanity of noodlers.

"Is it possible that those who noodle are in the 20 percent added to Medicaid each year," Bland said. "If you are referring to those deemed to have mental illness who the state must cover, this may be a Medicaid issue."

The bill was passed and placed on the list to perfect.

Legislators remember former administrator

BY KARENA WELLS
State News Editor

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. — The Missouri Senate lost one of its own this week. Former Senate administrator Ron Kirchoff died around 11 p.m. April 27 from a virus in his blood.

For 34 years he was director of printing and mailing, the Senate's first administrator and acting director of Senate Research, a post he held until retiring in May 2003.

"He was good at getting all of us out of jams - political and otherwise," said Senate Pro Tem Leader Peter Kinder (R-Cape Giradeau).

Kirchoff was still around even after he retired.

"Last week during the filibuster, he was sitting at home listening to it on the Internet," Kinder said.

"We should all be really thankful Ron didn't write a book," said Sen. Harold Caskey (R-Butler). "He knew so much, it could really be a tell all. I know I'm thankful he didn't write a book."

Sen. James Mathewson (D-Sedalia) had tears in his eyes when he spoke about Kirchoff.

"I was at the hospital with him last night," Mathewson said.

"He was probably my best friend. If you knew him you knew he was a tall man. He stood tall among people hear at the Senate."

Kirchoff left behind a wife, Betty (Big Noise), two daughters, Rhonda Meyer and Paula Wolken, and four grandchildren.

A motion was made by Caskey to rename the back gallery of the Senate after Kirchoff.

"I believe it would be a great tribute to Ron to name the place where he spent much time in conference with the senators after him," Caskey said.

"There are a lot of times we go back there to blow off steam and it would be most appropriate to rename it the Ron Kirchoff gallery."

Kinder supported Caskey's motion and the Senate President Joe Maxwell asked for a moment of silence in Kirchoff's honor.

STATE NEWS BRIEFS

Fiber Artists display exhibit at Cottey

The Missouri Fiber Artists have an exhibit on display in the P.E.O. Foundation Art Gallery at Cottey College. The exhibit will be in the gallery through May 20 and is free to the public. It features a variety of fiber arts including knitting, weaving and spinning from artists across Missouri. The exhibit was coordinated by two local artists, also featured in the exhibit, Leslie Caroll-Bartlett and Janet Wray.

The gallery is inside the Haidee and Allen Wild Center for the Arts on the northeast corner of Austin and Tower streets in Nevada, Mo. The gallery is open from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, and later on the evenings of performances in the Center for the Arts.

TSU selects Carnahan for commencement

Former U.S. senator Jean Carnahan will deliver the Truman State University commencement address at 2 p.m., May 15, in Stokes Stadium.

Carnahan was a U.S. senator for Missouri from 2000 until 2002. While in the Senate, she was a member of the Commerce, Governmental Affairs, Armed Service, Small Business Committees and the Committee on Aging. She also chaired a field hearing on prescription drug needs of the elderly. As a member of the first congressional delegation to Afghanistan after 9-11, Carnahan conferred with heads of state in Turkey, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Pakistan, Afghanistan and Oman. In addition, she met with military personnel on board the USS Theodore Roosevelt aircraft carrier.

SLU chooses Blitzer for commencement

One of the nation's most well known journalists will speak to more than 1,800 Saint Louis University graduates next month. CNN anchor Wolf Blitzer will deliver the commencement address.

Commencement begins at 10 a.m. May 15, at Savvis Center, 1401 Clark Ave.

A committee representing students, faculty and staff selected Blitzer from dozens of respected and worthy candidates. During his 20-year career, Blitzer has covered many events concerning international politics. He has interviewed many world leaders.

Today he anchors CNN's "Wolf Blitzer Reports" and hosts "Late Edition with Wolf Blitzer," a Sunday talk show seen in more than 200 countries and territories.

Blitzer also anchors other major news events, including CNN's "America Votes 2004," the network's coverage of the presidential race.

In addition to delivering this year's commencement address, Blitzer will join several other distinguished individuals in receiving honorary degrees from the University.

SEMO slates change for mascot/nickname

Several organizations connected with Southeast Missouri State University have voted to recommend the nickname/mascots of Indian and Otahkian be changed.

The Mascot/Nickname Study Committee has scheduled several information sessions for the public to give input and for the committee to answer questions concerning the nickname/mascots.

A public forum with the members of the Mascot/ Nickname Study Committee will be held in the in Academic Auditorium at 7 p.m May 12.

For those unable to attend any of the sessions, written comments may be mailed to: University Relations, Southeast Missouri State University, One University Plaza, MS 5000, Cape Girardeau, MO 63701.

Drawing Battle Lines

Senator makes frequent use of filibusters

Karena Wells/The Chart

Sen. Ken Jacob (D-Columbia) faces off in the August primary for lieutenant governor against Rebecca "Bekki" Cook, Cape Girardeau.

By Karena Wells
State News Editor

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. — The fourth floor of the Capitol is home for many senators. Sen. Ken Jacob (D-Columbia) is one of them.

His office is as cool and relaxed as he is with light blues and greens. There is a sense of being close to the ocean when in his office. His staff is friendly and knows their boss. When the senator requested a hamburger, his staff came back with a plain hamburger topped with what looked like a cup of dill pickle slices.

"I either like my hamburgers with ketchup or pickles," Jacob said. "Never both. I order them with pickles here because I like the pickles they serve."

Around the Capitol, Jacob is known for more than just his appetite for pickles. His name is often associated with Senate filibusters. When conducting a filibuster, if a senator stops talking he runs the risk of losing the floor. He has performed many filibusters in the Senate. There is a rule in the Senate, that requires a senator to refrain from speaking on a previous question.

The Senate has used this rule five times in the last 35 years. Jacob is the only senator to receive a p.q. twice.

"They get me because I was the guy leading the charge," Jacob said. "I must admit, people tell me to come up here and fight for them, I do. I don't believe in giving up."

Jacob said he has filibustered continually for 12 hours. What does he do when nature calls?

"No, I just let the speaker know we don't have a quorum," he said. "Then I sneak out the back during role call."

His methods make him different. They also give the minority power it would not otherwise have. With 34 senators, 20 being Republican and 14 being Democrat, there are situations where numbers matter.

"I use the tactics I use," Jacob said. "Because their policy is very extreme I can stop them from doing what they want or I can help them to find compromise."

He said it was not often that the Senate was willing and he was not compromising. Jacob is running for lieutenant governor in 2004 and said his experience qualifies him for the position.

"I think I would reside differently," Jacob said. "I would like to return the Senate to a time where it was more principled, unbiased, policy making body, I would like it to be less partisan."

He said he did not think the Republicans were really interested in fixing the problem, but rather just giving the perception.

"I must admit, people tell me to come up here and fight for them, I do. I don't believe in giving up."

At A Glance ...

Sen. Ken Jacob (D-Columbia)
Senate Minority Floor Leader

Born: St. Louis

Education: Bachelor's in education from University of Missouri-Columbia; graduated in 1989 from University of Missouri School of Law

Service: Elected to the Missouri House of Representatives, 1982-1984; elected to the Senate 1996 to present

Memberships: Children's Trust Fund (1982-1984); Columbia Board of Education (1981-1983); Missouri Bar Association (1989 to present)

Favorite Ice Cream: Chocolate

Senate pro tem seeks higher office

By Karena Wells
State News Editor

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. — With experience comes a corner office.

Sen. Peter D. Kinder (R- Cape Girardeau) has been involved with Missouri politics for many years. He started out working on someone else's campaign. Now he's got his own. His current office has light yellow walls and green carpet. The desks are oak. There is an earthy feeling to the place. Kinder himself is earthy. He is quick to shake hands and make those in his presence comfortable. This might explain why there were smiling Democrats casually coming in and out of his office.

If elected lieutenant governor in November, Kinder plans to assist the elderly.

"You are designated by the government as the elderly advocate," Kinder said. "Elders property tax relief, prescription drugs, nutritional issues, patient issues and falling. These are all important factors."

He said tourism was also a major part of the job. Kinder said tourism is the second largest industry in Missouri with many opportunities for growth.

"I also want to be a small business advocate," he said.

"Small businesses make up the new jobs in our state and in our country."

Kinder said he also wanted to focus on elementary and secondary education.

"There should be more parental choices on where they can send their children," he said.

Kinder carries himself differently than his his fellow senator. He does not have to use a filibuster very often.

"He (Sen. Ken Jacob) likes to drone on," Kinder said.

"I believe it is a natural progression for me to move up to lieutenant governor from pro tem leader."

Kinder said he has a lot of experience residing over the body.

"I believe I could do it fairly and in a judicious manner," Kinder said,

"And I believe Sen. Jacob would be something other than that. The presiding lieutenant governor, while in the chair, holding the gavel, should have no opinion. You follow the rules as they are printed in the rule book."

"The presiding lieutenant governor, while in the chair, holding the gavel, should have no opinion."

At A Glance ...

Sen. Peter D. Kinder (R-Cape Girardeau)
Senate President Pro Tem

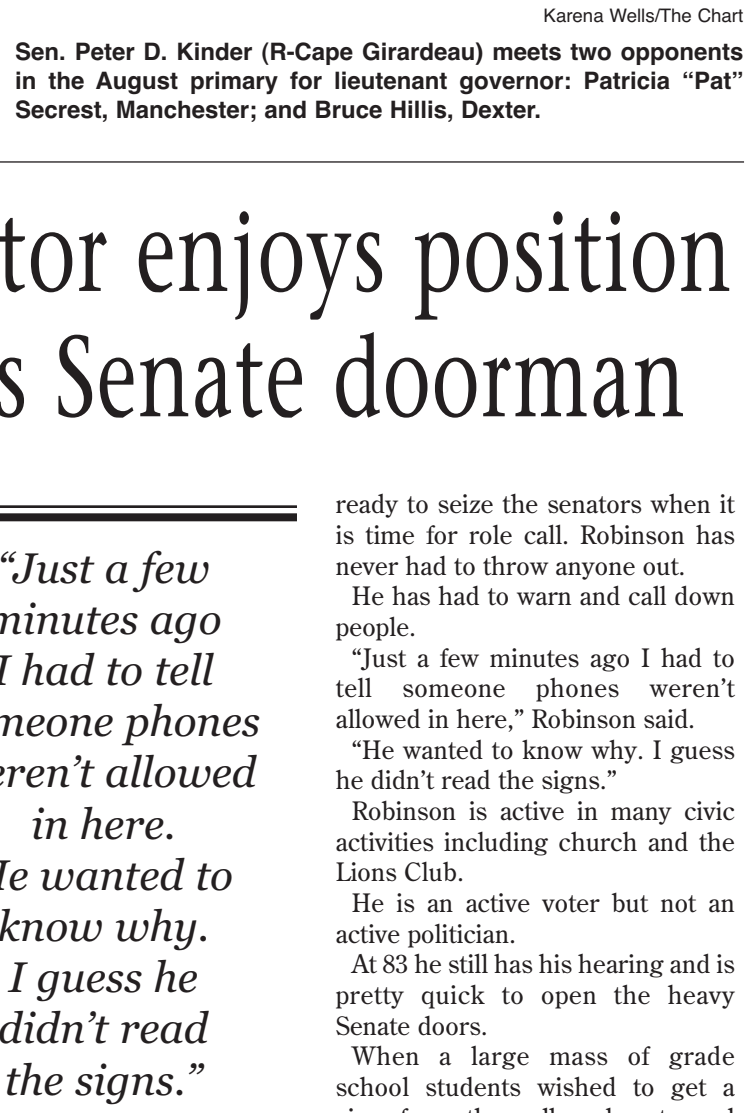
Born: Cape Girardeau

Education: Attended Southeast Missouri State University and bachelor's from University of Missouri-Columbia; graduated in 1979 from St. Mary's University School of Law, San Antonio

Service: Elected to the Missouri Senate in 1992

Memberships: LaCroix Methodist Church; Beta Theta Pi; Missouri Farm Bureau; Missouri Bar Association (1980 to present); United Way; Nature Conservancy; American Cancer Society; Boy Scouts of America

Favorite Ice Cream: Butter Pecan



Karena Wells/The Chart

Sen. Peter D. Kinder (R-Cape Girardeau) meets two opponents in the August primary for lieutenant governor: Patricia "Pat" Secrest, Manchester; and Bruce Hillis, Dexter.

Former educator enjoys position for 21 years as Senate doorman

Karena Wells/The Chart

B.W. Robinson seats a group of elementary school students during a session of the Missouri Senate. Robinson has been the doorman for the past 21 years.

By Karena Wells
State News Editor

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. — B.W. Robinson has been in the Capitol longer than many politicians.

For 21 years he has been a doorman for the Missouri Senate.

He started out as a teacher, working in a rural country school.

After teaching for 46 years he became assistant commissioner for education for the state of Missouri.

"I went from being a backwoods teacher, to being in charge of the whole state," Robinson said.

In 1981 he retired from the post and came to the Senate in 1982.

His favorite part of the job is when there is a strong debate between the senators. During his time as doorman he has seen three filibusters shut down by the previous question rule.

There have only been five times where the Senate chose to use this rule.

"The Senate has sought to avoid previous question, being a deliberate body where everyone has a say," Robinson said.

"It is rarely used."

"Just a few minutes ago I had to tell someone phones weren't allowed in here. He wanted to know why. I guess he didn't read the signs."

B.W. Robinson
Doorman for the Senate

As doorman his job is to open the door, assist visitors in getting the attention of the senators, hand out copies, make sure no one uses a camera without approval and be ready to seize the senators when it is time for role call. Robinson has never had to throw anyone out.

He has had to warn and call down people.

"Just a few minutes ago I had to tell someone phones weren't allowed in here," Robinson said.

"He wanted to know why. I guess he didn't read the signs."

Robinson is active in many civic activities including church and the Lions Club.

He is an active voter but not an active politician.

At 83 he still has his hearing and is pretty quick to open the heavy Senate doors.

When a large mass of grade school students wished to get a view from the gallery he stopped them first.

"I know a lot of you want to sit down close, but you won't be able to see what's going on," Robinson said.

"So I'm going to sit you where you can get a good view.

"How many of you are there? Thirty?"

"One hundred," said one brown-haired boy.

Robinson did not even flinch.

VISA:

From Page 1A

Rahila Khan, junior physics major, was one of the students who went to the meeting with León.

The students presented León with a letter with their presentation.

"We gave him a brief overview of our concerns," Khan said. "There were more details in the letter."

León said the University wants to take care of all of the students, including the international students.

Khan said she and several other international students are still waiting for an official statement from León.

Francois Le Lan, senior at the University of Orléans, said the situation says something about how the University treats the international students.

Le Lan said the international mission is not for American students alone.

"It (the international mission) is an exchange between countries," Le Lan said. "It's not a one way thing."

He said he would expect his home university in Orléans, France to make American exchange students feel welcome.

"It is the least you can do for someone coming to your country," Le Lan said.

He said he has not felt unwelcome during his studies in the United States but would like to express the concerns of other international students he knows.

He said issues the students have, even the simple miscommunications, need more attention from the administration.

Dr. Chad Stebbins, director of the Institute of International Studies, and Goad declined to comment on the issues because of the students' right to privacy and the delicacy of certain issues, which may concern specific students.

Sa was expecting to leave for her home, Daegu, South Korea, on May 17. Unless she can receive her documents before that date, she must extend her stay.

REC CENTER:

From Page 3A

because the creators of the survey felt that would have made it too long.

"The health center is definitely part of the process," Fullerton said. "There's a lot of good information [in the survey results] the architects will use to construct a model."

He said the design will incorporate what facilities students said they would most use and at what time of day they will use the facilities. He said funding for the project is "kind of at a stand-still."

"Money is tight across the board," he said.

Curt Betebenner, director of the Missouri Southern Foundation, said there is a $300,000 pledge and a grant proposal now, and the Foundation is working with a donor who it hopes will make a large contribution. Betebenner said the Foundation will raise as much as it can to help keep student fees for the project down.

"We would like to have contributions to supplement [the rec center]," he said.

Fullerton said the ideal situation would be to have the project paid for through donations. He said the project should cost between $12 million and $15 million.

"You need something to show people," Betebenner said. "They need to see what it is they are being asked to help with."

Zack Odem, outgoing Student Senate president, said he has not heard any news about the status of the rec center project.

"I hope the administration doesn't drop the project," Odem said. "It's important to the University as a recruitment and retention tool."

Fullerton said he thinks the project is going well.

"It's a crazy time of year for the architects and us," he said.

He said those working on the project are "excited," and students have been supportive.

"So far [everything] has gone very well," Fullerton said.

Nate Billings, International Editor, contributed to this article.

CHAT:

From Page 3A

The EPA has also tried moving the chat piles to other uninhabited areas.

Sparkman thinks this is a poor solution.

"What are we going to do," he said. "Are we going to rape another area to cover up this rape area?"

Sparkman thinks a better solution is to relocate the entire city of Picher. He is careful to point out the $43 million relocation would have to be mandatory to be successful.

Picher contains 1,600 people and the Tar Creek area contains 200 people. Sparkman said 85 percent of the inhabitants of these towns want to leave the area.

The most immediate concern is for the health of the town's inhabitants. Children under 7 years old are the most susceptible to the toxins.

Sparkman said the average child requires 25 repetitions to learn something, but because of the chemicals, children from Picher require 75-100 repetitions to learn things.

"We have kids that are being adversely affected as we speak," he said. "It's wearing out our teachers, and we've implemented every program we can think of."

Unlike Sparkman, Barton focuses on removing the chat from the area first.

"Get the chat out of the way and it will help the earth take care of itself," Barton said.

"In the meantime, let's not just focus on the one area."

If the lecture proved anything it is that the issues facing Picher inhabitants every day have no simple solutions.

"There's really no answer," Barton said. "They are going to have to move those people out. Why keep those people in harm's way? It's going to cost a lot of money, but we spend a lot of money on things that aren't nearly as important."

STUDENTS:

From Page 4A

from them? What is going to make that employer say, "I want to find out more about this applicant." Getting involved in extra curricular activities is a way to demonstrate that you have the skills they are looking for.

No matter what your interest, there is something for you at Southern. Interested in drama or performing? Try the College Players, chamber choir or band. Is math and science your thing? Try the Math Club, Delta Epsilon Chi, the Accounting Club, the Environmental Science Club, Chemistry Club or the Pre-Professional Club.

What if helping people is your passion? Then you might enjoy Southern's Student Coalition Against Child Abuse, B-GLAD, the Sociology Club, Psychology Club or one of the several religious organizations that do mission trips around the world. Are you the type to watch CNN 24/7 and the Fox News channel? Then join the College Democrats, College Republicans, SPEAK or the debate team. Is it ESPN day and night?

Get involved in organizing an intramural team, or join Gang Green.

Are you a "social butterfly?" Then going Greek is the way to go. If you are interested in something that does not pertain to any of our existing clubs, that's OK, just let us know, and we will do what we can to help you out. Bottom line — it doesn't matter what you get involved in, just get involved in something.

To find out about student organizations next fall, be sure to attend the student organization fair scheduled for Aug. 27, or call the student activities office at 625-9346. See you next fall.

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Comm. 220

TWISTER:

From Page 3A

away, neighbors lost everything. Later that afternoon Higgins saw the devastation by driving around the city.

"Words don't do justice for the emotions brought up," she said.

"When we drove around, that's when it really hit home."

The Carl Junction tornado left two people dead that day. To this day, Higgins doesn't know why her family was so lucky.

"You feel lucky, but you also wonder why the tornado hit where it did," she said.

"You're really thankful that the people who lost their homes were OK."

It won't be hard to forget about the tornado as her family has several dozens photos of the destruction.

While it was one of the most frightening days of Higgins' life, she said she now looks back at the day and the weeks following as a good life lesson.

Higgins was moved by the community moral and all the volunteering.

It meant a lot to her to see people help each other.

"It was really nice to see the community pull together," she said.

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The Chart will return Sept. 3. We'll see you then.
But, if you would like to send us a story idea over the summer, go ahead. chart@mssu.edu

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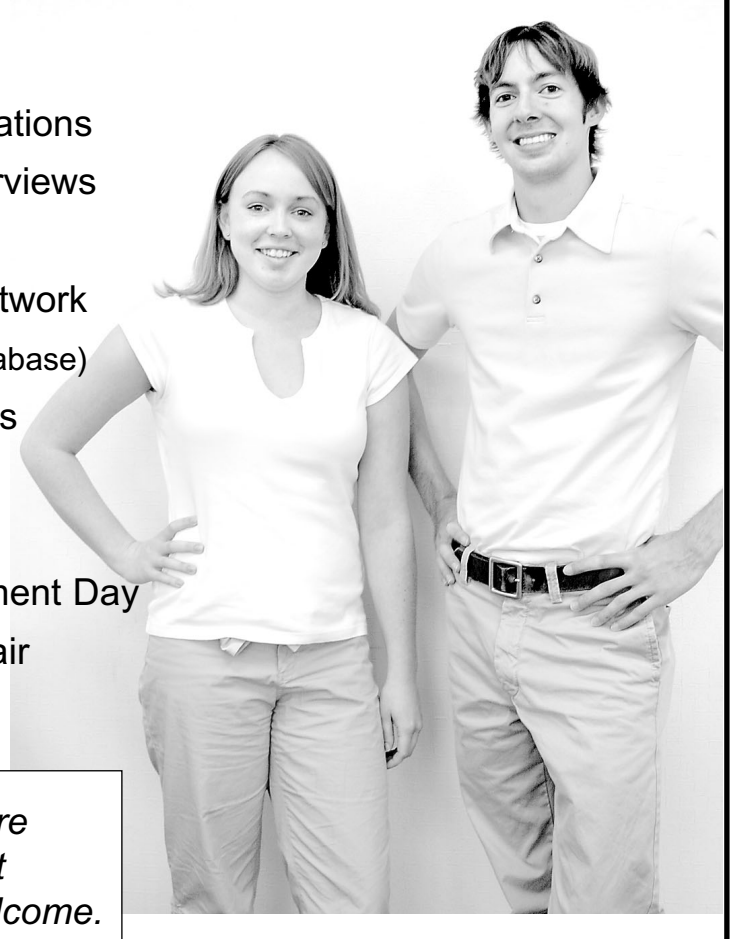

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MSIPC:

From Page 1A

how well they were taken care of and how they have a support system while they are here."

"It was just a good experience for everyone involved with it," she said.

León said during the reception held after the winners concert she had competitors telling her "Mrs. León, two more years and I'm coming back."

"They would not have said that if they did not have a good time," she said.

Other winners included third prize in the senior division to Sandro Russo, 28 from Italy who received $3,000.

There were three honorable mentions awarded in the senior division. Those receiving honorable mention nods were each given $2,000. Those winners were Yevgeniy Milyavskiy, 19 from USA/Belarus; Ruzha Semova, 27 from Bulgaria and Huihsin Tseng, 30 from Taiwan.

León said the awarding of first and third without a second place winner is not an uncommon practice in competitions. She said the judges wanted to make a distinction between the pianists.

"In this case, they felt like the first prize winner was so exceptional, they felt they wanted to show how exceptional she was," León said. "That there was nobody right next to her."

Chenyang Xu, 16, from China, took second prize and $2,000 in the junior division. Sichen Ma, 17, from China, placed third and received $1,500.

Soo Yeon Cho, 16, and Matthew Graybil, 17, both from the United States, took honorable mention and $1,200 apiece.

Now that the competition is over, León is looking toward the trip to Carnegie Hall this October.

"I have already, quite a list of people wanting to go to Carnegie Hall to see this girl play," she said. "It's going to be a fun time for us to be represented up there."

León said one of the highlights for her on the Carnegie Hall trips taken in years past, is when walking around the side of the hall and seeing the University name on the marquee.

"It's a big thrill for us to see 'Missouri Southern presents,'" she said.

Special to The Chart

Dr. David Ackiss, professor of English, helps junior winner Wenbin Jin with his tie before the MSIPC Gala Winners Concert April 24. Ackiss was Jin's host for his stay in Joplin for the biennial competition.

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HERE ON PLANET EARTH

Andy Tevis/The Chart

Lead singer of The Yooszh, Ross Gipson, senior English major, front, and his bandmates Jason Stamper, left, Andy Simpson and Jason Wofford, perform at the Oval during the April 28 Earth Day commemoration. Along with music, the celebration featured Native American dancers, vendors, displays and a dunk tank where students had the opportunity to dunk some of their instructors for $1.

Area youth compete in annual foreign language competition

BY MONIQUE JAMERSON
Staff Writer

More than 1,000 students participated in the Foreign Language Field Day festivities on Monday.

Dr. Tatiana Karmanova, director of the International Language Resource Center, said Foreign Language Field Day gives students from area high schools the opportunity to compete with each other to see how well they are doing.

"The overall success of the Foreign Language Field Day was great," Karmanova said.

Karmanova said there is no test to determine how well students are doing in a foreign language so this allows them to know how they compare to other schools.

Betty O'Connor, a student at Memorial Middle School, has been attending the Foreign Language Field Day for three years. O'Connor said she enjoys competing with other students and seeing students from other schools. O'Connor said she has enjoyed the experience, but this is her last year because she has completed her Spanish courses.

"Our school is pretty competitive, and that's what makes its fun," O'Connor said.

Tuan Mai, a student at Memorial, said he also enjoys competing and hopes he will finally win a competition.

"I have been coming to Foreign Language Field Day for three years now; I keep coming back in hopes to win an award," Mai said. "This day is like a day to test your skills against other people to see how well your doing."

Mark Pence, a student at Willard High School, said he has always had a blast when he attends the field day.

"I enjoy being with friends and meeting new people," Pence said.

He said competing is fun, and it makes him feel honored to have been picked to compete against other schools.

"What I like about Field Day is the things we learn, we actually use," Pence said.

Pence's school competed in the culture bowl, and he said he thinks they did pretty well.

"We not only have a lot of smart students but we also have great teachers," Pence said.

Foreign Language Field Day is not limited to competition and having fun. While giving a speech to the Foreign Language Field Day participants, University President Julio León said the field day is also to encourage students who attend Missouri Southern to study abroad.

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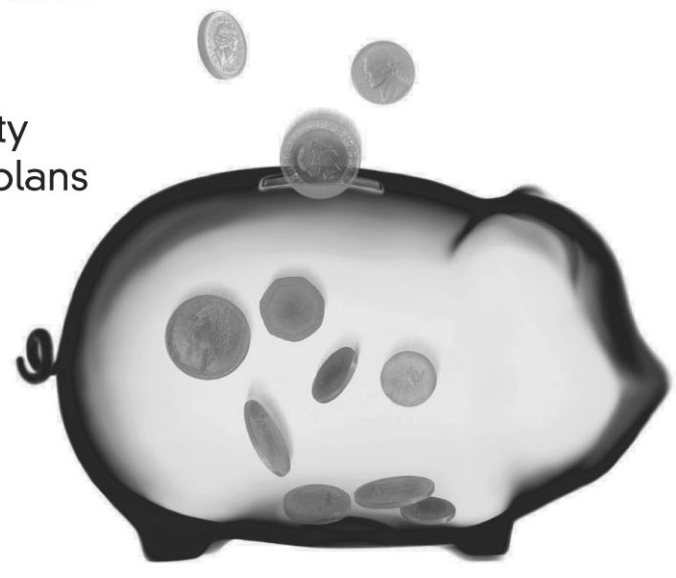

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LION STATS

Baseball

April 25 Results — Game 1

ESU (8)

Player	AB	R	H	RBI
Schaub	4	0	0	0
Sheahon	5	1	2	2
Smith	3	1	1	2
Pembleton	1	0	0	0
Way	5	1	2	0
J. Myers	5	0	2	0
Nease	5	0	2	1
Bails	3	1	1	0
D. Myers	1	0	0	0
Trivette	0	0	0	0
Martin	2	2	1	0
Grado	3	2	1	3
Soto	0	0	0	0
Bartley	0	0	0	0
Barker	0	0	0	0

MSSU (7)

Player	AB	R	H	RBI
Catanzaro	5	2	2	0
Molden	5	1	2	1
Hughes	5	0	2	0
Hergenrother	3	2	3	3
Taylor	5	1	2	2
J. Lawver	4	0	0	0
Schiller	4	1	1	1
L. Lawver	3	0	1	0
Velliquette	3	0	0	0
Bailey	0	0	0	0
Tupper	0	0	0	0
Ritchhart	0	0	0	0

ESU	**002**	**600**	**0**
MSSU	**100**	**000**	**0**

April 25 Results — Game 2

ESU (9)

Player	AB	R	H	RBI
Audiss	4	0	0	0
Sheahon	5	1	2	2
Pembleton	3	1	1	2
Way	1	0	0	0
J. Myers	5	1	2	0
Trivette	5	0	2	0
Nease	5	0	2	1
Miles	3	1	1	0
Grado	1	0	0	0
Medina	0	0	0	0
Bartley	2	2	1	0
Barker	3	2	1	3

MSSU (4)

Player	AB	R	H	RBI
Catanzaro	2	2	1	0
Molden	4	1	1	0
Hughes	3	1	1	3
Hergenrother	2	0	0	0
Brown	0	0	0	0
Knight	1	0	1	0
Taylor	3	0	2	1
J. Lawver	4	0	0	0
Schiller	4	0	1	0
L. Lawver	3	0	0	0
Velliquette	2	0	0	0
Rogers	0	0	0	0

ESU	**105**	**120**	**0**
MSSU	**003**	**010**	**0**

Tennis

April 24-25
@ MIAA Tournament

MSSU (5) SBU (0)

Singles

Sheryl Posch, MSSU d. Charlotte Heidelberg, SBU 6-0, 6-2

Kristen Meschede, MSSU d. Sarah Smith, SBU 6-1, 6-0

Doubles

S. Posch/L. McMunn, MSSU d. C. Heidelberg/V. Jones, SBU 8-0

B. Gombosi/K. McMunn, MSSU d. L. Klaasen/L. Hickel, SBU 8-3

K. Meschede/A. Stredney, MSSU d. S. Smith/L. Baer, SBU 8-1

WU (5) MSSU (1)

Singles

Erin Underwood, WU d. S. Posch, MSSU 6-1, 6-2

Julie Huyberechts, WU d. L. McMunn, MSSU 6-2, 2-6, 6-1

Holly Munro, WU d. K. Meschede, MSSU 6-0, 6-3

Doubles

S. Posch/L. McMunn, MSSU d. E. Underwood/L. Sullivan, WU 8-5

C. Day/K. Castillo, WU d. B. Gombosi/K. McMunn, MSSU 8-6

H. Munro/J. Huyberechts, WU d. K. Meschede/A. Stredney, MSSU 8-4

Southern Schedule

Saturday — Baseball noon against Truman State University.

Saturday — Men's, Women's outdoor track and field at MSSU Bill Williams Invitational.

Sunday — Baseball noon against Truman State University.

Sunday-Monday — Men's, Women's outdoor track and field in Kirksville @ MIAA Decathlon/ Heptathlon.

Tuesday — Baseball 1 p.m. @ Southwest Baptist University.

May 7-9 — Baseball at MIAA Championships.

May 8-9 — Men's, Women's outdoor track and field in Maryville @ MIAA Outdoor Championships.

May 13 — Men's, Women's outdoor track and field @ MSSU Lionbacker Last Chance meet.

HOT FOOTIN'

Andy Tevis/The Chart

Senior Mary Still, left, and sophomore Iashia Castle take a jog following practice April 28 on the new track surface in Hughes Stadium. The track and field team will compete at home Saturday during the Bill Williams Invitational, which will be the first home meet using the new track.

Women's track, field gains national spots

BY JEREMIAH COOK
Staff Writer

On April 14, the Missouri Southern women's outdoor track and field team competed in the University of Tulsa Invitational.

While at the meet, the Lions were able to improve on the number of provisionals they currently have.

Junior thrower Danee Jones improved her standing nationally in the hammer throw, and sophomore jumper Sara Mueller gained a provisional in the high jump.

Jones also finished first in the shot put and second in the discus throw and was awarded her second MIAA women's track and field athlete of the week for the outdoor season.

Senior hurdler Mary Still had her second best time of the season in the 400-meter hurdles, and senior distance runner Jen Noelken had her second best time of the season in the 3,000-meter steeplechase.

Mueller also had her best height of the season in the high jump, beating her old mark by just less than two inches.

The next meet the Lions will compete in will be the Bill Williams Invitational on Saturday. Then Southern will travel to the MIAA Heptathlon in Kirksville, Mo.

After those meets, the Lions face off against their conference foes in the MIAA Conference Outdoor Track and Field Championship meet.

The Lions are confident about their chances of bringing home another championship to pair with the indoor one they won this year.

"It just comes down to that day and putting everything together at once," Still said. "I think that we'll be able to put together a pretty good package for conference."

"We're just as strong as we were during the indoor season," said Shonna Sherrell, senior hurdler.

The Lions also think this is the most difficult point in the year for them, with finals and graduation coming up soon, along with the conference championship meet.

"It's really hard this time of year to improve," Still said. "It's a hard time in the season because everybody is tired and seeing the big improvements, but we are still working hard."

The conference championship meet will be held May 8-9 in Maryville, Mo.

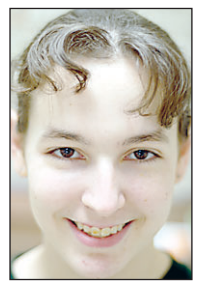
Women's Outdoor Track and Field National Qualifiers

Ashley Caffey	5,000-meter Run, 3,000-meter Run
Danee Jones	Discus, Shot Put, Hammer Throw
Sara Mueller	High Jump
Jen Noelken	3,000-meter Steeplechase
Dionne Prince	Triple Jump
Mary Still	200-meter Run, 400-meter Hurdles

Philip Martin

David Haut

Fearsome Four



Jessica MacIntosh

T.J. Gerlach

Editors grade sports events of 2003-2004

Trying to continue a tradition that was started before any of us were on staff, we are going to take a look back at the year in sports and hand out grades.

Men's Athlete of the Year:

This one was kind of easy. It just came to us when thinking about athletes who have really stepped up and performed this past year. Our pick for men's athlete of the year is Hiram Ocasio, junior guard, for the basketball team. It was an easy pick because during the basketball season, Ocasio achieved 86 total steals placing him second in the all-time steals list with 164 career steals. He is 220 steals away from breaking the record that is held by Eddin Santiago, who had 383 career steals. Ocasio, you receive an A for your effort this year.

Women's Athlete of the Year:

This category, too, was fairly simple. The women's soccer team's Tera Reisner, junior forward, was named to the NSCAA All-Central Region third-team and the MIAA conference first team. She also scored the third most goals in Southern's history. She scored 13 goals in the fall and had two assists. We're giving Reisner an A for all she did this year.

Men's & Women's Teams of the Year:

We're combining these two because it is the same sport. The cross country teams did an outstanding job this past year. Especially the women. The men have a strong team year in and year out. The women, however, stepped up this year and set a goal of making it to the national competition, which they did for the first time in Missouri Southern history. Final grade for the two teams: A+.

Biggest Surprise of the Year:

The men's and women's indoor track and field teams both winning MIAA conference championships. This is the first time either team has won the championship; so, for both teams to win, it is a feat. Final grade: A+.

Biggest Disappointment of the Year:

Gang Green. What happened guys? You started out strong during the football season and after Homecoming you amputated yourselves. It is pathetic to see only a few members at the sporting events. Gang Green receives an F as its final grade.

Best Improvement of the Year:

Hands down, the best improvement goes to Hughes Stadium. Never for a moment did we doubt that it would get done. We were a little worried there with the track surface. But it got done and now it is something to be proud of. Something that can be played on without fear of injuries. The Hughes Stadium restoration receives an A+.

Worst Improvement of the Year:

The tennis courts and the soccer field, although never discussed before. Now that the stadium has been updated, it's time to help out some of the other teams and improve their playing surfaces. The tennis courts and soccer field are in dire need of improvement. Final grade for all needed improvements: I (for incomplete).

There it is the best and worst of the year. All in all, the athletes did a great job and we should know. If not, well, we just didn't bring our 'A' game.

Runner breaks University record, earns provisional

BY JEREMIAH COOK
Staff Writer

While participating at the Drake Relays, junior distance runner Paul Koehler broke a University record in the 10,000-meter run and picked up his second provisional qualifying mark of the outdoor season.

Junior pole-vaulter Kyle Rutledge also matched his best mark of the season, a provisional, at the University of Tulsa Invitational.

At the Bill Williams Invitational on Saturday in Joplin, the Missouri Southern men's outdoor track and field team will get its first chance to test the new track in the heat of competition. It is an experience the Lions are looking forward to after having to cancel their first two home meets of the season.

"It's a beautiful track," said Tom Rutledge, head coach. "When you travel, it takes a toll on your energy level. Having a home meet means that you get to sleep in your own bed and get a little bit more rest. Naturally, that makes it a little bit easier."

"I think that it's a big thing for everyone," said Mika Alahaivala, junior thrower. "After having to travel to all of the different meets and not competing at home, it's kind of like the start of our season in a way."

"I love it out here," Kyle said. "I'm so proud of the school for helping us out and giving us a new track. It's awesome."

After competing in the Bill Williams Invitational, the Lions travel to Kirksville, Mo. to take part in the MIAA Decathlon on Sunday and Monday.

Following those two meets, Southern competes in the MIAA outdoor track and field championship.

"The conference meet is always very exciting," Kyle said.

"We're always ready to compete and do our best. It's what we train all year for."

The Lions are also confident about their chances of winning the conference outdoor championship.

"We have a really good team this year, compared to other years," Alahaivala said. "We have a lot of team unity. It won't be easy, but I think that we have a chance."

The conference championship meet will be held May 8-9 in Maryville, Mo.

Men's Outdoor Track and Field National Qualifiers

Mika Alahaivala	Javelin
Matt Campbell	Pole Vault
Paul Koehler	5,000-meter Run 10,000-meter Run
Brian Lyons	5,000-meter Run 1,500-meter Run
Kyle Rutledge	Pole Vault
Arley Smith	Discus Hammer Throw